Use of Scientific; Tecbnologjr for Benefit of Tribal Children

*275. SHRI JAGIR, SINGH
DARD:
DR. SHKIKANT RAM-
CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will' the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the various measures which the Department of Science and Technology can take in the area of Mel-ghat Forest of Amravati distrifct of Maharashtra where 4500 children have died due to mialnutrition and disease during the last three years and several are likely to die in this-rainy season;

(b) in whiat way can modem science and technology come to the benefit of these tribals; and

(c) what concrete steps will be taken by this department for preventing this great calamity?

THE MINISTEROF STATE IN [THE laiNISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECIHINOLOGY THE MINISlIER pF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): da) to (c) The livelihood of the tribals of Meighat forest re gion now largely depends on agri culture. One of the reasons of loss in the agriculture prodtiction is the absence of scientific water mianage-tnent practices. Therefore, an expert group of the Department of Science & technology has recommended a project titled "Developing livelihood base for tribals in Melghiat through watershed development" for imple mentation in this area. The actSvi-vitles under this project include di version drains, field bunding and doinage; contour trenches, planata-tion. gully plugging, organisation of local community and people's partici pation and *in situ* moisture conserva tion-

Grant of Industry status to news papets

*276. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minista: of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Language Newspapers Associjation has urged Government to ,give the status of industry to newspapers;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to grant the said status to the said orgianisations; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement the recomenda-tions of the Ram Mohan Raio Com-mi'ttee?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Ministry of Industry has not receiv-ed any such representjation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 11 out of 12 recommendations of the Committee have been accept-eid by the Govemmat. It has not: been pwssible, however, to extend a special concessibnal iiate of postal tariff.

MOU signed by Departinent of Public Enterprises with an Enterprise

*277. DR, B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an MOU is signed every year between Department of Publie Enterprises and an Enterprise;

(b) if so, the details Of the sets and achieved during 1996-97 particularly in power, oil sector and steel sector;

(c) whether the Goevmment have set up any cOrtimittee to review the functioning of MOU system:L: